

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /069 W  
-----061415Z 083765 /53

R 060935Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2458  
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMCONSUL MADRAS  
USCINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT, IN  
SUBJ: CHAVAN URGES RECONCILIATION IN HIS REPLY TO  
PM'S ADDRESS

REF: NEW DELHI 4843

1. IN THE FIRST SUCH GRANTING OF EQUAL TIME TO THE  
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, CONGRESS PARLIAMENTARY PARTY  
CHIEF Y.B. CHAVAN BROADCAST HIS RESPONSE TO THE PRIME  
MINISTER'S ADDRESS (REFTEL) ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 5.  
HE DEFENDED THE CONGRESS PARTY'S RECORD THROUGH THE  
FREEDOM STRUGGLE AND 30 YEARS OF "PROGRESSIVE" RULE.  
CITING THE SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF CONGRESS  
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GOVERNMENT AT THE CENTER, CHAVAN SAID IT WAS CLEAR  
THAT THE PEOPLE'S VERDICT WAS NOT AGAINST BASIC  
CONGRESS POLICIES BUT RATHER AGAINST THE "OVERZEALOUS  
AND HARSH IMPLEMENTATION" OF SOME POLICIES DURING THE  
EMERGENCY. CALLING THESE ABUSES A "NATIONAL TRAGEDY",  
HE ADDED THAT THE PARTY HAD LEARNED THE "BITTER  
LESSON" OF THE EMERGENCY AND THE ELECTIONS.

2. CHAVAN REITERATED HIS PARTY'S OFFER OF COOPERATION TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT "IN THE MUTUAL TASK OF BUILDING A NEW NATION". HE SAID THAT A MERE NEGATIVE APPROACH WOULD NOT BE USEFUL AND URGED THAT THE TEMPTATION FOR "WITCH-HUNTING" BE AVOIDED. OFFERING HIS GOOD WISHES TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND ITS LEADER, WHOM CHAVAN DESCRIBED AS A "STALWART OF THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT" AND A PROMINENT FORMER CONGRESSMAN, HE SAID THE ELCTIONS HAD PROVED THE "INHERENT STRENGTH OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY". HE ADDED THAT "WHATEVER ABERRATIONS HAD OCCURRED IN THE PAST, WE MUST NOW MOVE ONWARD IN MARMONY. THERE HAS BEEN ENOUGH BITTERNESS AND CONTROVERSY IN THIS NATION OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS." CHAVAN CONCLUDED BY URGING A "BROAD NATIONAL RECONCILIATION" SO THAT THE COUNTRY CAN MOVE FORWARD.

3. CHAVAN MENTIONED FOREIGN POLICY ONLY IN PASSING. HE DEFENDED PREVIOUS CONGRESS GOVERNMENTS BECAUSE THEY STOOD FOR "NON-ALIGNMENT POLICY" WITH THE AFRICAN LIBERATION STRUGGLE AND THE JUST CAUSE OF THE ARAB PEOPLE AND FOR GOOD RELATIONS WHEREVER POSSIBLE WITH OUR NEIGHBORSZM

4. COMMENT: WHILE DEFENDING THE BROAD THEMES OF CONGRESS POLICIES, CHAVAN WAS REMARKABLY FRANK IN CITING THE CAUSES OF THE PARTY'S RECENT DEBACLE. THE CONCILIATORY TONE OF HIS REMARKS AND HIS OFFER OF CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT MAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PORTEND REASONABLY AMICABLE RELATIONS BETWEEN DESAI AND THE OPPOSITION IN THE NEAR-TERM. THUS FAR, DEBATES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION MP'S IN THE LOK SABHA HAVE BEEN GENERALLY DECOROUS. SHOUTING MATCHES HAVE OCCURRED ONLY WHEN CONGRESSMEN HAVE TRIED TO DEFEND CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE EMERGENCY. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN TO WHAT EXTENT THE CONGRESS WILL SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT IN REPEALING VARIOUS "BLACK LAWS" OF THE EMERGENCY PERIOD. WHEN INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING MINISTER ADVANI RECENTLY INTRODUCED BILLS TO REPEAL THE PREVENTION OF PUBLICATION OF OBJECTIONABLE MATTER ACT AND TO RESTORE THE FEROZE GANDHI ACT, THE MOTION FOR INTRODUCTION WAS ADOPTED WITHOUT A DISSENTING VOICE.

SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPEECHES, OPPOSITION PARTIES, PARTY ALLIANCE  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CHAVAN URGES RECONCILIATION IN HIS REPLY TO PM'S ADDRESS  
**TAGS:** PINT, IN, (CHAVAN, Y B)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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